

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system having physical control channels arranged for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between a secondary station and a plurality of primary stations, wherein respective closed-loop power control means are provided for individually adjusting the power of some or all physical control channels, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped, said closed-loop power control means being utilized to select a subset of primary stations, selected from the plurality of primary stations, for the transmission of data over and at least one data channel between the selected subset of primary stations and the secondary station between the one or more primary stations, selected from the plurality of primary stations, subset of primary stations and the secondary station for the transmission of data from the or each selected primary station to the secondary station, wherein respective closed-loop power control means are provided for adjusting individually the power of some or all physical control channels, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped.

2. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that means are provided for encoding each downlink physical control channel, or part thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped with a respective scrambling code to enable the associated primary station to be identified.

3. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that means are provided for transmitting power control commands relating to each downlink physical control channel, or part thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped via a single time-multiplexed uplink physical channel.

4. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that means responsive to requests from the secondary station are provided for selecting the primary station connected to the or each data channel.

5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that means are provided for establishing a plurality of communication links between a primary station and the secondary station, for determining which of the primary stations comprise selected primary stations, and for determining which of the communication links are selected.

6. (Currently Amended) A primary station for use in a radio communication system having physical control channels arranged for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between a secondary station and a plurality of primary stations, and at least one data channel between a selected subset of primary stations ~~one or more primary stations~~, selected from the plurality of primary stations, and the secondary station for the transmission of data over the at least one data channel from the ~~or each selected primary station to the secondary station~~, wherein closed-loop power control means are provided for adjusting the power of some or all physical control channels between the plurality of primary stations and the secondary station, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped, said closed-loop power control means being utilized to select the subset of primary stations.

7. (Original) A primary station as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that means are provided for acquiring or releasing a data channel in response to changing radio link conditions, thereby becoming or ceasing to be a selected primary station.

8. (Original) A primary station as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that means are provided for determining operational parameters of the data channel depending

on the power level of a physical control channel, or part thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped.

9. (Original) A primary station as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that the operational parameters are modulation and/or coding schemes.

10. (Currently Amended) A secondary station for use in a radio communication system having physical control channels arranged for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between the secondary station and a plurality of primary stations, and at least one data channel between a selected subset of one or more primary stations, selected from the plurality of primary stations, and the secondary station for the transmission of data over the at least one data channel from the or each selected primary station to the secondary station, wherein closed-loop power control means are provided for adjusting individually the power of some or all physical control channels between the plurality of primary stations and secondary station, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped, said closed-loop power control means being utilized to select the subset of primary stations.

11. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 10, characterised in that means are provided for determining which of the primary stations comprise the selected primary station or stations in response to changing radio link conditions.

12. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 10, characterised in that means are provided for transmitting each set of uplink control information over a separate physical channel.

13. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 12, characterised in that means are provided for distinguishing the physical channels by use of different channelisation codes.

14. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 12, characterised in that means are provided for distinguishing two of the physical channels by transmitting a first physical channel which uses the in-phase component of the carrier and a second physical channel which uses the quadrature-phase component of the carrier.

15. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 14, characterised in that means are provided for interrupting an uplink physical control channel when uplink data transmission is required.

16. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 10, characterised in that means are provided for transmitting each set of uplink control information in a time-multiplexed manner over a single physical channel.

17. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 16, characterised in that means are provided for achieving the time-multiplexing by reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands.

18. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 17, characterised in that the reduction of rate is in proportion to a number greater than or equal to the number of primary stations with which sets of control information are exchanged.

19. (Original) A secondary station as claimed in claim 16, characterised in that means are provided for achieving the time-multiplexing by including separate power control relating to each primary station with which sets of control information are exchanged in a single physical control channel.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a radio communication system having physical control channels arranged for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between a secondary station and a plurality of primary stations, and at least one data channel between a selected subset of one or more primary

stations, selected from the plurality of primary stations, and the secondary station for the transmission of data over the at least one data channel from the or each selected primary station to the secondary station, the method comprising operating respective closed-loop power control means for adjusting individually the power of some or all physical control channels, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped to select the subset of primary stations.

21 – 24 (Cancelled)